

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 397

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis for its many contributions to cross-cultural education and in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those extraordinary organizations which, through their abiding commitment to cross-cultural communication, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis (CIUM) is one such extraordinary organization; and

WHEREAS, the CIUM provides cultural learning through study abroad and exchange programs, summer bridge camps, comparative research, language learning, and Asian Studies and International Trade bachelor degree programs; and

WHEREAS, the Confucius Institute is a non-profit, public institute with the goal of promoting Chinese language and culture and supporting local Chinese teaching internationally through affiliated Confucius Institutes around the world; and

WHEREAS, Confucius Institutes are established by the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, which is headquartered in Beijing; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with its partner institution, Hubei University in China, the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis promotes understanding of the Chinese language and culture among the people of the United States, develops friendly relations between the United States and China, accelerates the expansion of multiculturalism, and provides opportunities of students studying the Chinese language; and

WHEREAS, the CIUM was recognized as the “Confucius Institute of the Year” in 2010 and 2012; and its director, Hsiang-te Kung, received the “Individual Excellent Performance” award from HANBAN in 2011; and

WHEREAS, as one of the best Confucius Institutes in the country, the CIUM has had the privilege of hosting former ambassador, Wu Jianmin, and his wife during a visit to the University of Memphis, as well as the Consul General from Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the CIUM is led by director, Dr. Hsiang-te Kung, a seventy-fifth generation descendant of Confucius; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the CIUM has flourished, garnering numerous awards and recognitions; and more importantly, educating those people who are eager to learn about Chinese culture; and

WHEREAS, the students and staff of the CIUM have proven to be of the highest caliber and have represented their school, the State of Tennessee, and the United States of America with honor, ability, and distinction, and this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to congratulate them on their accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis and extend to the staff and students of the CIUM our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.